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New Turn In Bank Robbery Case—Back Page

Today's weather: Light moderate variable winds. Cloudy with patches of drizzle developing.

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RUSSIA TO BUILD THOUSAND U-BOATS

London, Dec. 17. Jane's Fighting Ships reported today that Russia's huge undersea fleet — scheduled eventually to number 1,000 U-boats — would include the fastest submarines the world has ever known.

The 53rd and largest edition of this authoritative "naval bible" said that German technicians were showing the Russians how to build mine-laying submarines capable of speeds up to 29 miles per hour under water.

The fastest submarines now known to be in service—ships of the United States Navy's Tang Class—travel 20 miles an hour under water. Few surface ships of any size can attain speeds greater than 35 miles per hour.

Jane's said also that Russia was building four new battle-ships mounting guided missile launchers as well as 16-inch guns and at least four super cruisers armed with 10-inch guns and guided missile gear.

The naval book next reported that Russia also gave Communist China 25 to 50 small—1,500 to 3,500-ton—warships of an unidentified type and armament last year as the nucleus of a "South China Fleet."

GROWING POWER

Jane's review of world naval developments devoted grave attention to Russia's growing power, but the main theme was the tremendous naval superiority of the West and the particularly unimpaired strength of the American 5,000-ship fleet.

Referring to the manoeuvres recently staged by the navies of the West in various areas, Jane's said that these had proved that the Western forces could be welded into one "international fleet" to meet any threat.

Jane's said, "A striking and little realised feature of the navies of today is the degree of uniformity which has been achieved or can be attained in fleet operations."

Jane's warns that reports on Russian naval developments must be "treated with reserve" but added that apparently reliable reports said that Russia now had 370 submarines in service and were rushing 120 to completion with the eventual aim of a 1,000-submarine navy.

Naval authorities promptly pointed out, however, that these figures were the same as Jane's estimates last year of Red undersea strength—an indication either that the Russians had lightened security precautions or that they were making less progress than they dared to admit.

COMMENT OF THE DAY

Mr Lyttelton's Compliment

MR Oliver Lyttelton, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, could not have paid the Hongkong Police Force a more graceful compliment than that implied in his expressed desire to have our Police Commissioner, Mr D. W. MacIntosh, in Malaya to reorganise and revitalise the Police Force there for the purpose of waging a more successful campaign against the bandits and terrorists. The Secretary of State is quoted as having been tremendously impressed by the "smooth but taut efficiency" of our Police, and to have expressed the conviction that if it has been possible to build up a "happy and prosperous Hongkong" by means of good government and efficient policing, he can see no reason why the same should not be accomplished in Malaya. Given everything else equal there could be no contesting Mr Oliver's proposition. It cannot, however, be seriously suggested that the post-war problems of Hongkong and Malaya have been anything like parallel. Malaya has been plagued with a deliberate, well-organised political vendetta directed against the established government and the forces of law and order.

Anglo-Egyptian Relations

WHILE it is probably expecting too much for any immediate or spectacular results from today's meeting in Paris between Mr Anthony Eden and the Egyptian Foreign Minister, the fact that the Anglo-Egyptian dispute can be discussed on this high level and in a more or less informal atmosphere offers some hope of a modus vivendi being reached which can pave the way for a rational composing of differences. Main obstacle at present to a settlement through diplomatic channels is the continued operations of terrorists in the Canal Zone. Until their activities cease it is impossible to pursue discussions that have any prospects of yielding a mutually agreeable solution to this problem of Anglo-Egyptian relations. The Cairo Government has acknowledged its responsibility in this

Christmas Parcels

Five thousand free Christmas parcels for troops in Korea recently left London Airport. Picture shows a general view in the Army Postal Depot, Knightsbridge, with some of the 5,000 parcels being sorted for despatch.



Rebels Given Bad Time

Hanoi, Dec. 18. Disorganised Communist-led rebels remaining east of the Black River were being cut to ribbons early today by mobile French and Vietnamese forces 40 miles west of here.

French Headquarters declared that 50 per cent of the 312 Vietnamese division which infiltrated the French lines had been killed, captured or wounded.

An Army spokesman on Sunday had placed the number of Communists killed in the Hoabinh sector in the past five days between 2,000 and 2,500. He said French losses were about one to every 20 Communists.

Eisenhower & Presidency

To Run Says Journal Washington, Dec. 17. General Dwight D. Eisenhower, the Supreme Atlantic Commander in Europe, has agreed to nomination as the Republican candidate for the Presidency of the United States, the United States News and World Report said today.

It added that he has rejected nomination as the Democratic Party nominee.

The independent weekly magazine did not quote its sources but said that the facts were established in a canvass of people with "first-hand knowledge."

It claimed to have "established the fact" that the General would not object to his name being entered as a Republican in the New Hampshire primary on March 15.—Reuter.

Strachey's Solution For Malaya Problem

London, Dec. 17. Mr John Strachey, Secretary of State for War in the Labour Government, today declared that the political leaders Dato Onn and Dato Tan Cheng Lock could win the co-operation of the people of Malaya in the development of that country.

In an article in the Labour paper Daily Herald, Mr Strachey stressed that Britain must be prepared to give up power in Malaya as soon as competent indigenous authorities were available.

He described as "so particularly unfortunate" the political statements of the Colonial Secretary, Mr Oliver Lyttelton, and in particular, his statement or implied statement on arrival at Singapore that the extension of democracy and self-government must be postponed till after the emergency.

Mr Strachey added, "When Mr Lyttelton got to Malaya itself, he was made to realise the mistake he had made and was in a position to say, or imply, the opposite—namely that the introduction of democracy and self-government (which has begun) must go on."

Mr Strachey said that when he visited Malaya in June, 1950, he came to the conclusion that the British alone could never put down the insurrection in Malaya.

"Only rapid political development, with Malays, Chinese and Indians, aided by us, themselves taking over the main job could bring success."

NO ORGANISATION

"But at that time there was no united organisation of the Malay, Chinese and Indian inhabitants of Malaya which could represent and organise the Malayan people, and to which we could progressively transfer power," Mr Strachey continued.

"By good fortune, such an organisation has now emerged. Exactly such a party has been founded by two remarkable men, both of whom I met in Malaya."

"Dato Onn is the outstanding modern-minded Malay, reasonable, friendly, but firmly determined that the remaining elements of colonial status for his country should be quickly eliminated."

"Dato Tan Cheng Lock, a leading Chinese business man and an intellectual, has joined with Dato Onn and with the representatives of the half million Indians in Malaya to create a new inter-racial party which is evidently intended to do for Malaya what the Indian Congress Party did for India—achieve independence and democratic self-government."

"Far from fearing and opposing this new party, we (Continued on Page 5 Col. 6)

Egyptian Terrorists Ambush British Jeeps

MILITARY OFFICER DIES FROM WOUND: THREE POLICEMEN SHOT

Ismailia, Dec. 17. Egyptian terrorists ambushed two British Army jeeps tonight in Ismailia. They shot a lieutenant in the head — a wound from which he died in hospital later.

Three military policemen were also wounded in the same ambush. A corporal, who was shot in the neck, is dangerously ill.

The ambush took place about 200 yards from the Egyptian police headquarters. A bomb was thrown from the roadside and the terrorists opened up small-arms fire.

The road is used legally by British Army transports. It is supposed to be guarded by Egyptian police.

The first jeep escaped damage, but the second jeep was repeatedly hit. The leading jeep stopped, turned round and picked up the wounded.

After the ambush, two other military police jeeps tried to reach the scene from the direction of the Moascar garrison, but were stopped at a bridge.

A Royal Air Force police car went over the bridge and down the road. It encountered heavy fire but came back without casualties.

Fire was returned from a British Army gun post at the bridge but it is not known if any casualties were inflicted on the terrorists.

The Egyptian Minister of the Interior told the Senate tonight that the Government had decided to take over control of the "liberation battalions" because "certain elements have infiltrated into their ranks which worked for their own purposes."

The Minister, Foad Serag el Din Pasha, announced that the Government has opened a preliminary credit of £2,100,000 for training youths in their spare time.

He was replying to questions by Independent Senators Galal Hussein and Abdel Wahab Yalast Pasha on the Government's policy affecting the battalions.

122 INCIDENTS

The Minister listed 122 incidents which, he said, were caused by the infiltrating elements against Egyptians and non-British foreigners between October 16 and December 8.

These included robberies, threats to obtain money, incitement to murder and urging Government labour to leave work.

(In a note last night Britain accused the Egyptian police of the deliberate murder of British soldiers in Ismailia in an incident on November 18).

The Interior Minister said that when the Egyptian Government discovered that these elements were working for the "real struggle to expel the British from the country," it decided to take over control of the battalions of really faithful youths by training them under the supervision of a technical and military committee headed by Abdel Meguid Abdel Hakk.

The Minister's statement was received with cheers from all sides of the Upper House.

ERSKINE'S STATEMENT

In the military sense the British position "is much stronger," Lieutenant-General Sir George Erskine, General Officer Commanding British troops in Egypt, told an Egyptian correspondent.

"I have many more troops, no service families in Egyptian towns and a steady flow of labour is arriving from outside," General Erskine said.

"This does not solve the problem of Anglo-Egyptian relations — it only sets British forces more securely in the Canal Zone."

General Erskine's statement was made to the correspondent last Wednesday and was released today.

The situation in the Suez Canal Zone was drifting in a most dangerous manner, General Erskine said.

It had "tended to go from bad to worse in the sense that there are more incidents between the British and the local population, incited by agitators from outside the Zone," he added.

General Erskine began his statement by asserting "My instructions are to stay in the Canal Zone and look after British military establishments which at present exist there. We should much prefer to do this peacefully as an ally of Egypt under the Treaty of 1936. But the Egyptian Government has

abrogated that treaty and the British Government has not recognised the validity of that action.

"PERIOD OF SILENCE"

"Political arrangements for defence of the Middle East are no concern of mine. But as a soldier I will say that if the Middle East is to organise its defence at all I cannot see how it can be done without Egypt."

Recommending "a period of silence in which neither of us slanged each other but when each of us tried to understand each other's point of view," General Erskine said that the alternative would mean that "we shall be committed to a period where we move further and further apart, tempers will be raised and blood will be shed."

The Egyptian correspondent had gone from Cairo to interview General Erskine at his Fayid headquarters in the Canal Zone.

General Erskine told the correspondent that whenever he had received help from the police authorities the situation had shown improvement.

"I am most anxious that at least in public security matters we should come to a sound working arrangement," he said.

General Erskine said that Egypt was so geographically placed that she could not remain neutral unless she had her own armed forces comparable in scale to what were required last time when the threat came from the west.—Reuter.

MINISTER RESIGNS

Cairo, Dec. 17. Hamed Zaky Pasha, Minister of National Economy in the Nahas Pasha Wafdist Govern-

ment, tendered his resignation tonight.

He told reporters that his resignation was due to "differences between myself and other Cabinet colleagues over domestic and foreign policy."

Zaky Pasha recently returned to Cairo from an extensive tour of European capitals, where he conducted trade talks.—Reuter.

Bank Draft Racket

Karachi, Dec. 17. The newspaper Evening Star reported tonight that the police had discovered a bank draft forging racket involving 400,000 rupees (£40,000) and with ramifications at Rangoon and Hongkong.

It was said that the racketeers sold forged drafts to "Arabs and foreigners" who sold them to foreign banks. The newspaper alleged that the fraud was "discovered when the Rangoon police asked the Karachi police to investigate two drafts on Rangoon bank which did not exist. The Karachi police were also working in co-operation with the Hongkong police, the paper said."

The newspaper reported that five arrests had been made and that among those arrested were three representatives of a local business firm.—France-Press.

BORDER SHOOTING

Syrian Sentry Kills Two Fishermen

Tel-Aviv, Dec. 17. An Israeli official spokesman said here on Monday night that shots from a Syrian sentry killed two Israelis in a fishing boat on the Sea of Galilee on Sunday night.

This was the first incident on the Syrian-Israeli border since the clashes last May over Israel's draining of the Huleh marshes in the frontier area.

A third man was wounded but managed to escape by hiding on the bottom of the boat until dark, the spokesman said.

In a strong protest to the United Nations Syrian-Israeli Mixed Armistice Commission, Israel demanded that it meet at once to discuss the incident.

The Commission has not met since the border fighting last May.

Major Arlie Friedlander, head of Israel's delegation to the Commission, in a note today to its American Chairman, Colonel Samuel Taxis, demanded "immediate action to apprehend the criminals and bring home to the Syrian Government the full gravity and implications of this brutal act."

The killing of the fishermen has caused an "intolerable situation," the Major's message asserted.—Reuter.

Empire State Bldg To Be Sold

New York, Dec. 17. The Empire State Building will be sold this week for \$51,000,000, according to the New York Sun today.

The newspaper said the 102-story building will be purchased by a syndicate headed by R. Stevens and A. Glancy—United Press.

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Sunday Post-Herald, and
China Mail Staff Photo-
graphs are on view in
the Morning Post Building

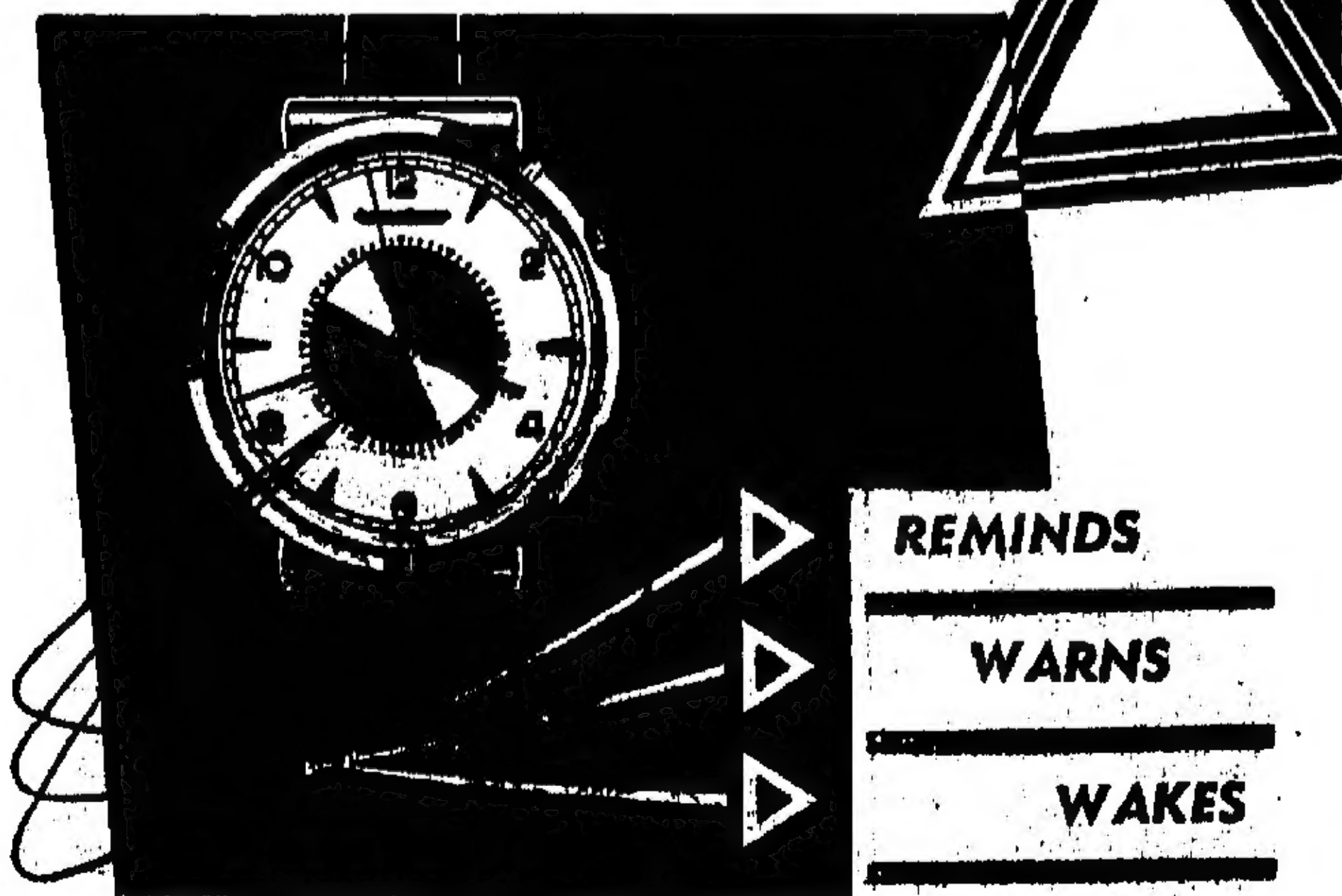
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New Snow-storm Hits Oklahoma

Chicago, Dec. 17.
A new snow-storm swept into the Middle West today, and forecasters said that it would be followed by another severe sub-zero cold wave.
The storm, the second to hit within three days, developed over Northern Oklahoma and Southern Kansas and began moving northward with winds of 25 to 30 miles an hour. It was forecast that it would lay three to six inches of new snow over the area stretching from Nebraska to New England.
—United Press.

PRESIDENT'S MOVE IN PAA STRIKE

Washington, Dec. 17.
President Truman tonight formed an emergency board in an effort to end the strike of Pan-American World Airways, which threatens serious disruption of the Korean airlift.
Nearly 6,000 ground and flight staff of the company have been on strike since yesterday, 24 hours after a deadlock in the wage talks.

The President's Press Secretary, Mr. Joseph Short, told reporters today that the White House acted because Pan-American handled a large volume of traffic for the Korean airlift which might be seriously disrupted if the strike continued.

In Los Angeles, Mr. Jerome Fenton, Assistant Vice-President of Pan-American World Airways in charge of industrial relations, accused CIO transport workers of walking out in an illegal, surprise strike.

Mr. Fenton said that the Union struck in violation of the Railway Labor Act without informing its members of the Company's offer of a 10-cent hourly wage increase.

The Airline stood ready to follow processes set forth in the Railway Labor Act including arbitration to settle the strike of 5,800 mechanics, stewards and commissary workers.

The Company would exert a special effort to maintain the Korean airlift operations and its important services linking Berlin with West Germany.
—Reuter and United Press.

RIVIERA BEAUTY ON TELEVISION



Mossadegh's Appeal

Teheran, Dec. 17.
Premier Mohammad Mossadegh today appealed to the electorate to vote for a candidate who would help his Government settle the oil question and eliminate foreign interference.

In an election campaign broadcast over Radio Teheran, Dr. Mossadegh pledged complete freedom in the forthcoming national balloting and announced that the "National Front" organization would enter no candidate.

State and municipal officials are to start making arrangements for voting in the capital and northern provinces on Tuesday.

No date has yet been set for the actual elections nor have any preliminary plans been made for voting so far in central and southern Iran.
—United Press.

A SOMBRE FUTURE FOR CATHOLICS ON CHINA MAINLAND

Vatican City, Dec. 17.

Communist China expelled 1,238 Roman Catholic missionaries in the year 1951, the Fides Agency, which specialises in news of foreign missions, reported today.

In addition, it said, the prisons of China still hold at least 300 priests, Brothers and Nuns and 22 Bishops, including both native clerics and foreign missionaries who are accused of opposing the Communist Government.

The expelled missionaries, said the report, include 10 Bishops, 530 priests, 40 Brothers—teachers or assistants—and 650 Nuns, and the exodus is continuing.

Calling 1951 one of the most difficult years the Catholic Church ever endured in China, the agency said:

"The future is no less sombre for priests still in the country, whether they are foreign missionaries or native Chinese."

Fides said the remaining Catholic missionary personnel in China is paralysed.

8,100 LEFT

Foreign missionaries still in China, it said, total 1,500 priests, 100 Brothers and 600 Nuns. The total missionary personnel of China—including natives—numbers about 2,500 priests, 600 Brothers and 5,000 Nuns.

Chinese Nuns, Fides explained, belong to Sisterhoods that are exclusively Chinese or to communities of foreign missionary Sisters.

Many of those that belonged to strictly Chinese communities have, because of the circumstances, been dispensed from their vows so that they could return to their families where, said Fides, they will be invaluable in keeping the Christian spirit alive.

Strangely enough, the agency added, "a number of major seminaries have been able to continue to operate. Of 28 that existed in 1948, about 15 are still functioning. The minor seminaries, however, have nearly all disappeared."
—Associated Press.

Socialists Plan Action In Far East

Brussels, Dec. 17.

The Executive Committee of the Socialist International met here today to begin mapping out further action to give teeth to decisions by the General Council's Congress here last week-end.

The Committee will next meet in London later this week.

One of its tasks is to plan a Socialist ideological offensive throughout the Far East. The Congress decided that this could best be done if a regional Federation of Socialist Parties was created.

The Council ruled that this mission should be entrusted to the Indian and Japanese Socialist Democratic parties, which are the strongest and best organised in the Far East.

The Executive Committee has to decide what sums each member party of the International will have to contribute towards a fund to aid the Asian work.

High on the list of prospective members of the International are the Socialist parties in Burma, Indonesia and Indo-China.

The Congress decided to inaugurate similar action in Europe devised to attract large sections of European youth into the Socialist ranks.
—Reuter.

A Bull's Eye

Southbridge, Mass., Dec. 17.
An American optical company has made a bull's eye.

Believed to be the largest artificial eye ever made, it is moulded from plastic and is for a Hereford show bull owned by Mr. F. McIntosh of West Virginia.
—United Press.

POP

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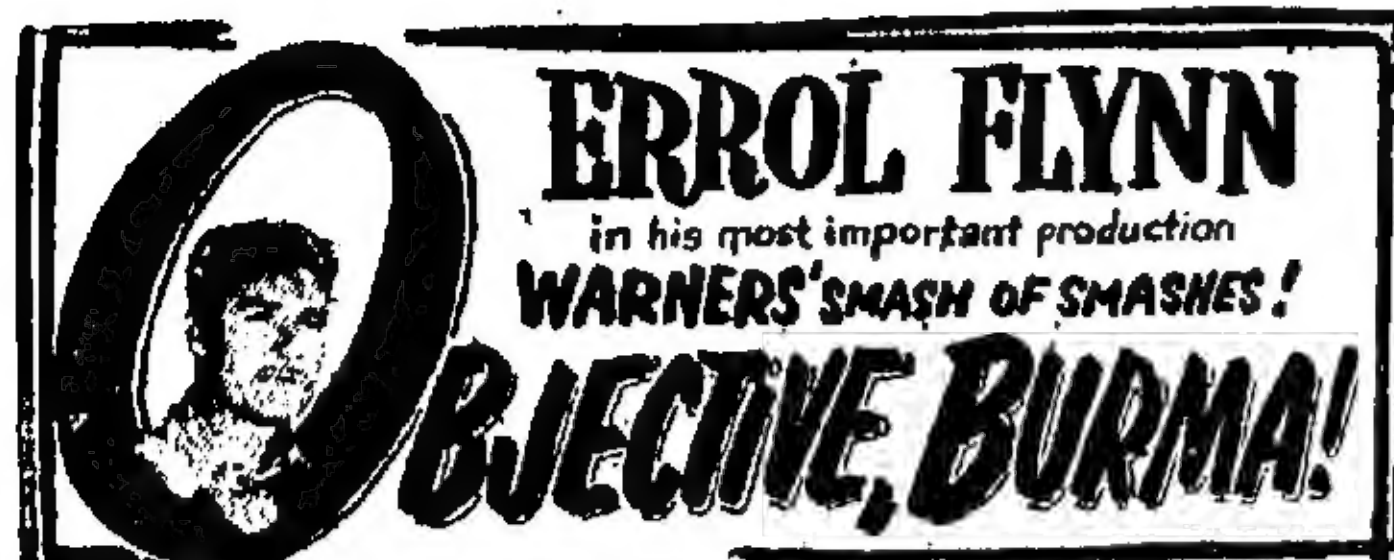
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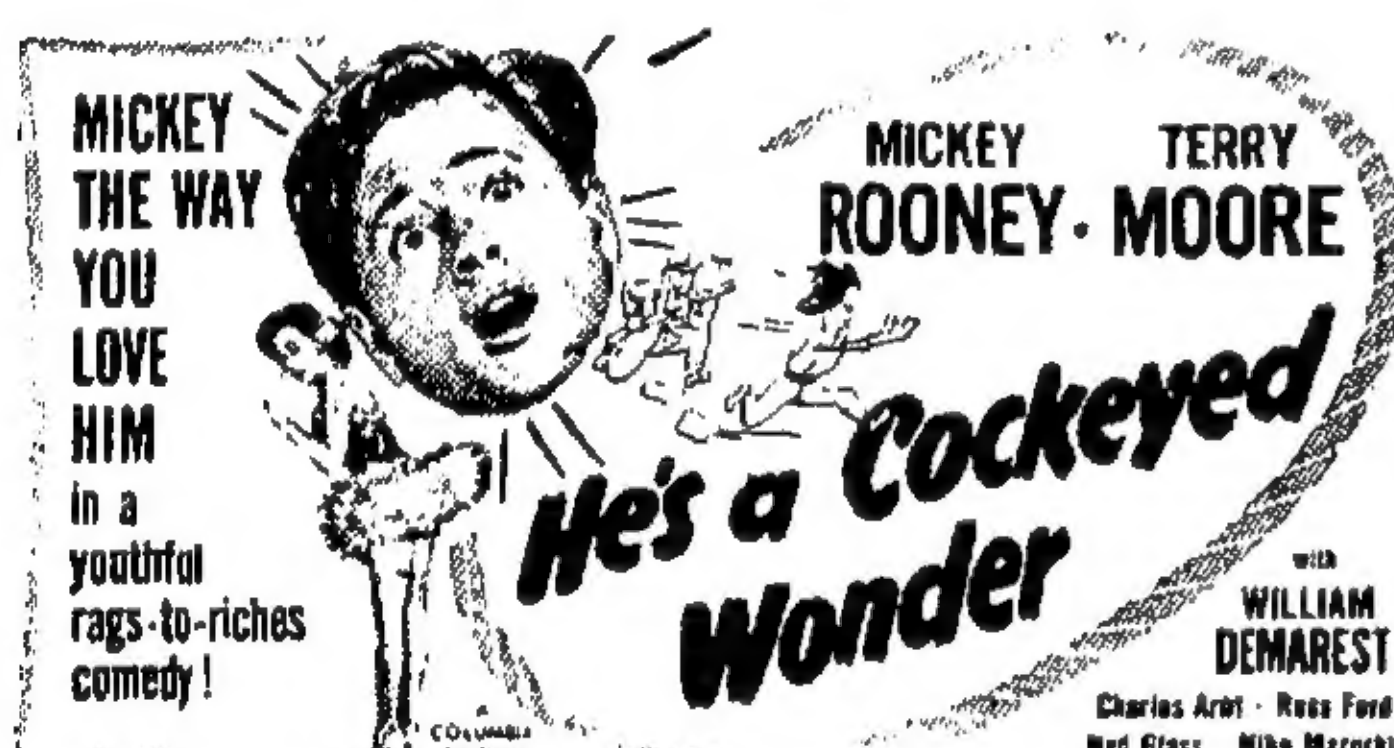
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THE GENUINE



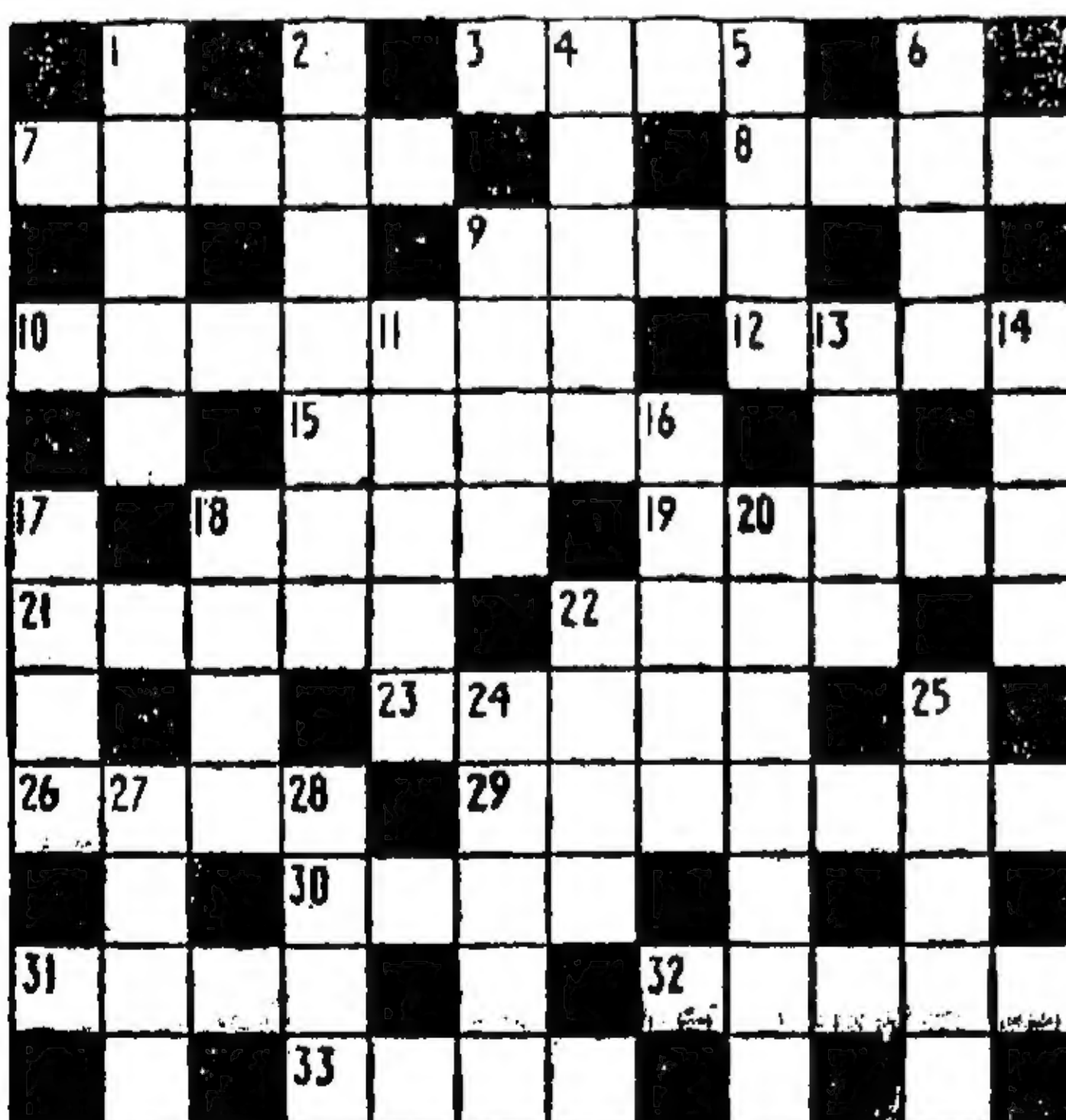
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ALSO: 3 STOOGES COMEDY

A British Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS
3 Benevolent (4).
7 Test (5).
8 Soon (4).
9 Praise (4).
10 Seat (7).
12 Min-cutter (4).
15 Percolated (5).
18 Spot (4).
19 Elevate (5).
21 Correspond (5).
22 Saucy (4).
23 Weapon (10).
26 Chase (4).
29 Beamish (7).
30 Bellow (4).
31 Singer (4).
32 Stage show (6).
33 Fish (4).

DOWN
1 Answer (5).
2 Red Indian child (7).
4 Foolish (5).
5 Decoration on lower part of wall (4).
6 Tie up (4).
8 Idle (4).
9 Suits (5).
13 Cynical (4).
14 Observes (4).
15 Fear (5).
16 Money (4).
17 Country (4).
20 Came (7).
22 Fruit (4).
24 Trick (5).
25 Proboscis (5).
27 One (4).
28 Share (4).

YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD.—Across: 1. Pencil; 7. Icon; 9. Chorus; 10. Tunes; 11. Pass; 13. Molestation; 15. Trail; 16. Nest; 19. Dispersed; 22. Maim; 24. Years; 25. Bacon; 26. Hunt; 27. Stream. Down: 2. Roadster; 3. Comedy; 4. Slight; 5. Displaced; 6. Tongue; 8. Cause; 12. Suits; 13. Minion; 14. Informant; 17. Adieu; 18. Spanks; 20. Soldier; 21. Extra; 23. Ayah.

GBS Letters Auctioned

London, Dec. 17. Letters written by George Bernard Shaw to the actress Ada Rehan between 1901 and 1907 were bought at Sotheby's today by the London book dealer, Mr. Raphael Kins, for £256 for "an enthusiastic American Shaw collector."

In one of the letters G. B. S. wrote: "Who are the first-rate authors? Pinero, Jones and Barry. I omit for the moment Shakespeare, who is played out and Shaw, who is not yet played in."

A second batch of nine Shaw messages went to Mr. King for £22. In one of these Shaw commented: "They told me that I should die unless I ate meat. I did not eat meat and I am not dead."

Reuter.

New Jersey Air Disaster Inquiry

Elizabeth, N.J., Dec. 17. A six-way investigation opened today to determine the cause of the second worst air disaster in the nation's history that brought death to 56 persons.

Federal, State and local investigators met in a rooming house of a few blocks from the crash site where people had come to identify the bodies of the bodies of the victims.

The bodies, covered with blankets, lay on the straw-covered cement floor of a two-story house in the rear of a hotel. They were taken from the crash site of the bodies of the victims of the crash.

The 52 passengers and crew of the plane, a blindingly white, six-engine, after a four-hour flight from Newark airport on a flight to Florida.

A lift of the runway smoke came from the light motor of the twin-engine plane. The pilot, Captain C. A. Lyons, of Miami, tried to bank the ship to return to the field but something snapped and the plane plummeted into the shallow Elizabeth River.

Officials of the Civil Aeronautics Board launched the inquiry to determine whether the converted Curtiss Commando had been properly inspected before the take-off.

ALLEGED DEFICIENCY

The C.A.B. was joined by representatives of the Civil Aeronautics Authority, Miami Airlines Incorporated, the State of New Jersey, and officials of Essex County.

Mr. Joseph Fluet, chief of the New York Office of the C.A.B., summoned an engineer specialist from Washington to investigate the reported heater deficiency in the plane's engine.

Essex County authorities moved in to learn whether every safety precaution had been taken before the ship left Newark.

The staff of five physicians, augmented by morticians and a score of grief-stricken relatives, are sifting through stacks of personal belongings found at the scene.

"We are trying to dissuade them from looking at the bodies," an official said. "It's better if they try to find their loved ones through personal effects."

United Press.

Congress Gains In Election

New Delhi, Dec. 17. The Congress Party has won 24 out of 36 seats in the new Parliament.

The state of other parties—Independents, eight; K.M.P. (Popular Workers and Peasants Party) three; Federation of United Indians, one.

The polling, which is being conducted sectionally, will extend over a three-month period. So far, 10 Congress Party candidates have been returned unopposed, and three other Independents and one other K.M.P. candidate elected to the House. The Congress Party's success, political observers said, confirmed pre-election forecasts.

France-Press.

British Proposal For Five-Nation Report On German Elections

Paris, Dec. 17. Britain today put up the names of five countries for the United Nations Commission to investigate conditions for an all-German election.

Sir Gladwyn Jebb, speaking for the Western Powers in the Special (Ad Hoc) Political Committee, proposed Pakistan, Brazil, Iceland, Holland and one Communist country—Poland—for this task.

But he denied three "wild accusations" levelled at the proposed Commission by the Soviet side. These were:

1. That its job was to bring the whole of Germany into the Western camp.

2. That it ought to put the German Government "in a state of subservience."

3. That it was to complete the work of the Western Powers in the West.

Sir Gladwyn said "it does seem likely that any agreement could be achieved only by the four powers—Britain, France, the United States and the Soviet Union—about the facts of the situation in Germany."

"It is true that as a result of the war it has become clear that there is not much chance of the Commission being able to carry out its task immediately."

"But for this very reason we have tried a new approach to the problem by inviting the aid of the United Nations."

DIFFERENT THING

"The Western powers feel, however, that moral pressure, which merely consists in telling the four powers to try again, is not the very best thing."

Sir Gladwyn said that an impartial Commission as sought by the three Western Powers was very different thing from a four-power Commission.

Furthermore, the increasingly bitter experience of the German Federal Republic had no doubt made them feel that the greater safeguard of United Nations supervision of elections was essential.

Sir Gladwyn said that it was hoped that Poland would serve in the proposed Commission with Brazil, Iceland, Holland and Pakistan as it was not desired that the views of certain Eastern European countries should go unrepresented.

America, Britain and France were not trying a "propaganda trick" with their Commission proposal.

LIGHT NEEDED

"The truth is that they feel themselves as a result of the Soviet Government may also find themselves in an uncomfortable dilemma."

"Both sides want Germany united, neither side can agree on the precise methods of achieving it. Let us then both agree on an investigation by an admittedly impartial body."

Sir Gladwyn said that they could hardly believe Russia would boycott the entire proposal, which could rescue both sides from the dilemma.

He urged, "Light" should be directed towards any murky corners that may exist in any part of the two Germanies."

The divergent views expressed before the Committee by the East and West German representatives were the strongest possible argument for setting up the impartial Commission immediately.

"But," he added, "We certainly do not intend ever to exclude the possibility of four-power talks when they are likely to bear results."

The Israeli delegate, M. Maurice Fisher, argued that Germany should be encouraged to choose new leaders only after both East and West Zones had been compelled to assume responsibility for historical wrongs.

Sweden's resolution was more than the tripartite resolution, but even so it lacked any safeguard against the resurrection of Nazism.

The United Nations Commission, because it placed the United Nations' attention to Germany on the shoulders of the four occupation powers.

Kneel. Takeddine, of the Lebanon, did not think any representative of the opposing "blocks" should be on the investigating Commission.

He also believed that the maximum deadline for the Commission to report should be the end of the year, and the report should be ready for the next General Assembly.

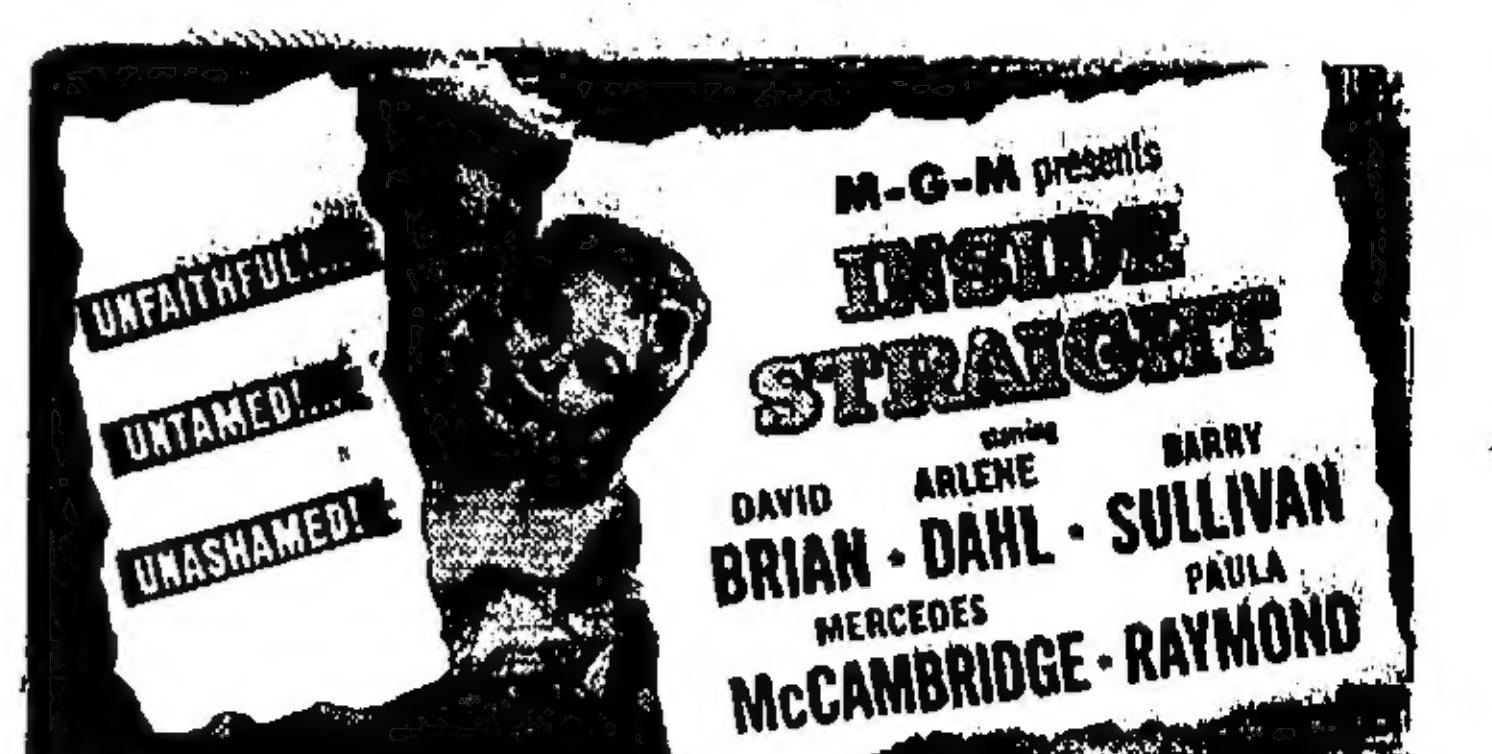
The Committee then adjourned to 2.00 p.m. GMT tomorrow.

Reuter.

Reuter.

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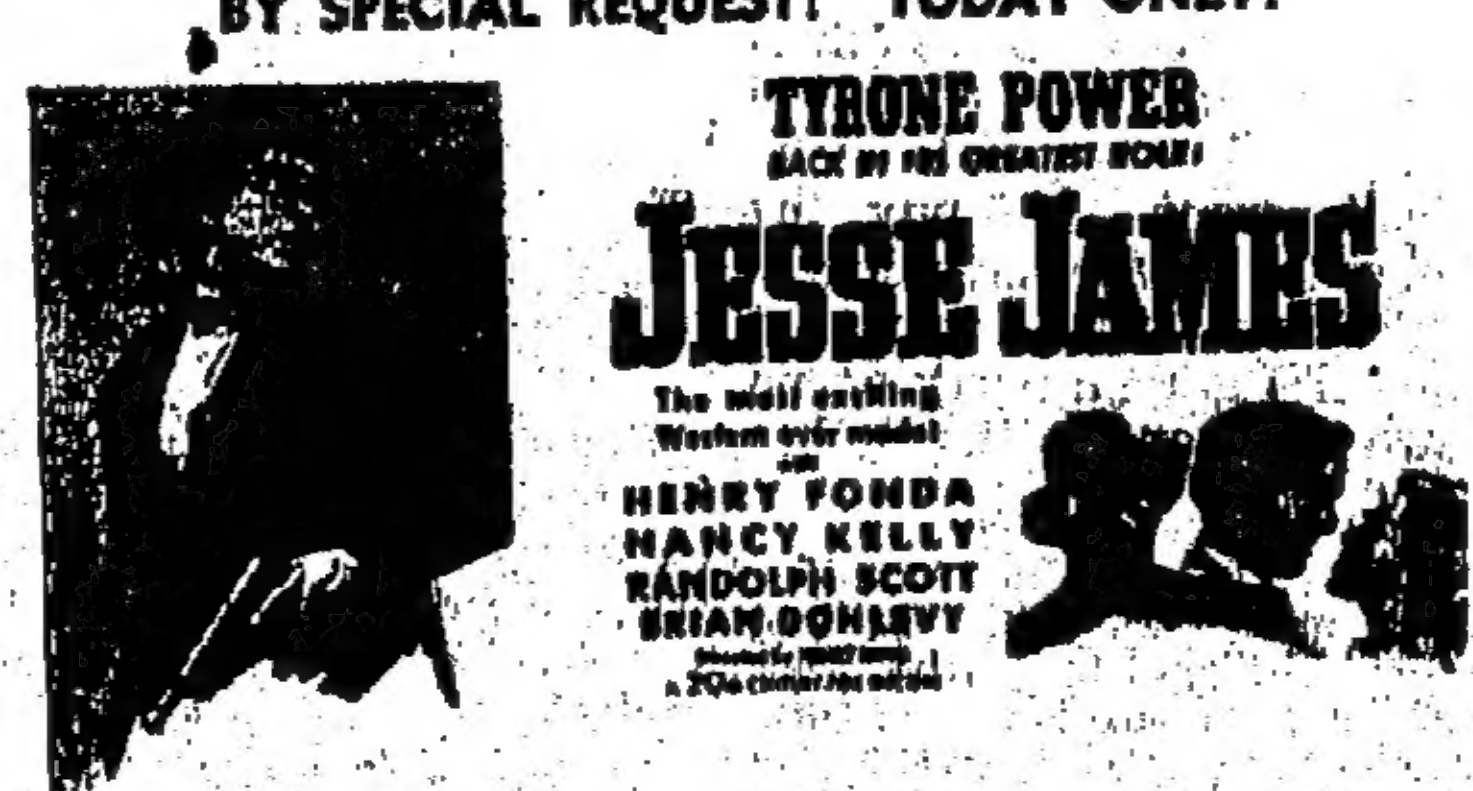
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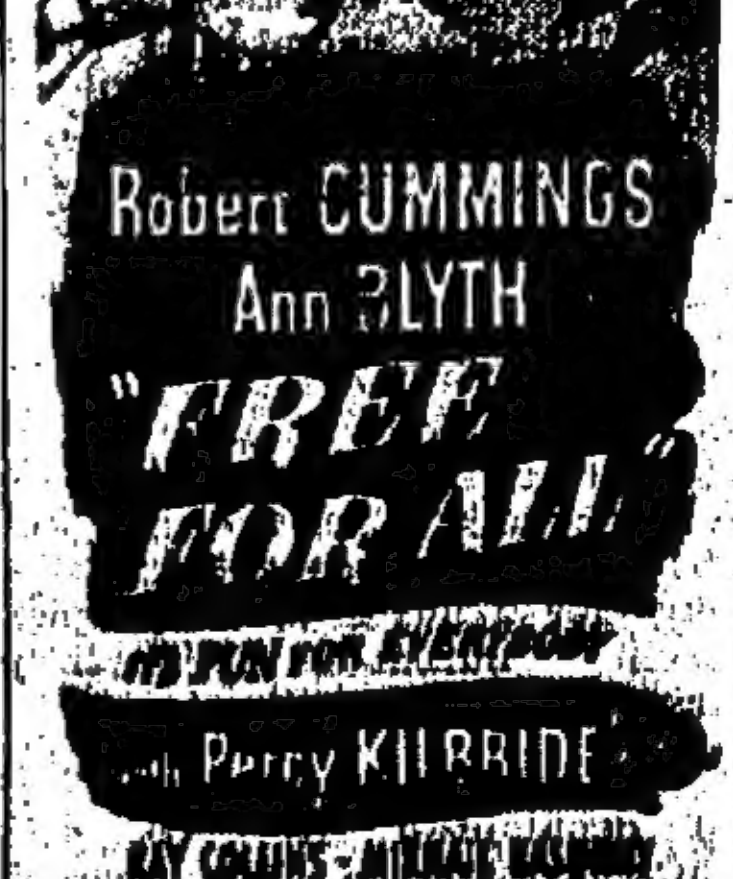
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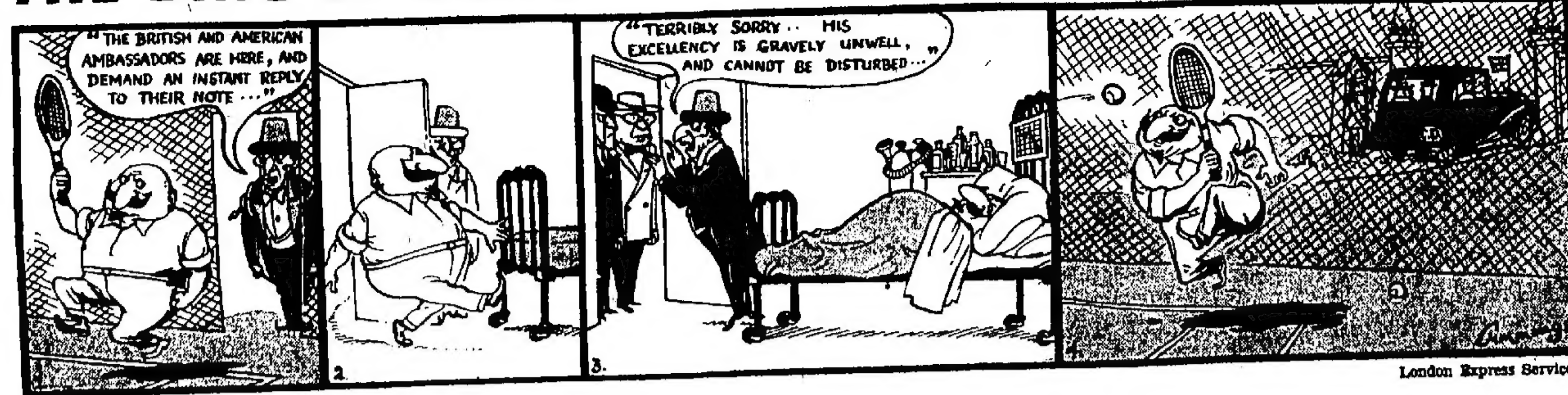
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THE DING OF DONG



'UTILITY' DEBUTANTES

Less glamour, less expense, but the etiquette of the Court is just the same

A MONTH ago there should have appeared in the newspapers those dignified advertisements from the Lord Chamberlain announcing the dates when the newest debutantes can gather in round-eyed excitement to be presented at Court.

The King's planned convalescence cruise in the spring may mean no presentation courts next year.

Does it matter?

To the anxious mothers who are telephoning the Lord Chamberlain's office to find out if there are any instructions from the Palace it appears to matter a great deal.

Before the war it was costing something like £500,000 a year to bring out the debutantes. Father was lucky to get away with a bill of anything under £1,000 for the season.

Before a girl can be presented she must have a sponsor who has already been to Court. The sponsor herself must apply for the girl's invitation.

With many impoverished gentlemen seeking an easy-made addition to their income, a racket soon flourished. The Lord Chamberlain was angry. It was decreed that any woman found to have been paid to present a girl would be refused permission to present again. But, of course, there are ways and means of getting over that obstacle.

£10,000 is supposed to be the highest figure a man has ever paid to see his daughter at Court. That was just before the last war.

In the economy days since the war the old glamorous evening presentation Courts have gone.

Now the presentations are done at afternoon Palace parties. The debutantes are not presented individually. The King and Queen walk down the line speaking occasionally to a specially favoured one.

A girl can—and many do today—go to her presentation in a utility dress.

"A girl and her mother just buy the new hat, gloves, and the summer dress they would normally get," I was told by Mrs. Horace Farquharson, a professional adviser on the intricacies of "coming out."

"Less fuss is made of titles among debutantes today. A title is only valuable if there is money with it. Most girls work for a living. Their friends are from varying social levels."

"Presentation is still one of the great moments in the life of the modern society girl. But no longer because she is looking for a husband. They pick their husbands differently now."

The cruelty has gone out of a debutante's life, too, said Mrs. Farquharson. The "season" could be very brutal to a girl who was shy, dull, or plain.

Today it can—and often does—cost up to £2,000 for the girl who still shales on something like a "season."

But for most debutantes social life consists of the appearance at Court and a 50s. ticket to the debutantes' ball given in aid of Queen Charlotte's Hospital.

During the war, when there were no presentations, the ball was the only substitute—though officially it didn't count.

The woman who organised the ball for years was tall, aristocratic-looking Lady Hamond-Graeme.

She has just retired from the task, but throughout her time she was the sergeant-major of debutantes. With a microphone in front of her she would command and chide the white-gowned debutantes.

"Last year," said Lady Hamond-Graeme, "I really told them off. I said they were the worst lot I had ever met. 'Put your heads up and your sterna in. You'll enter the room like a lot of camels.' I told them. That got them. They were the best of the lot."

Lady Hamond-Graeme is in a position to judge the debutante of today. "She's very much nicer than the girl of the pre-war years. She is so much better mannered. There were some frightful creatures before the war."

It is just as well for their sponsors that the modern debutante is well behaved. For the Court holds the sponsors responsible for any of the errors of their charges.

There was a girl who wore a skin-tight dress. It was beautiful and she was proud of it—until she arrived in the Palace. She suddenly realised she couldn't curtsy without splitting the dress.

She thought fast, and, with the fascinated eyes of every other woman watching her, flung herself low in an Eastern obeisance.

Her mentor was promptly refused permission to appear at Court again.

Then there was the high-ranking woman who sponsored unwittingly a divorcee. She could never present another person after that.

ROBERT GLENTON

BRITTEN MAKES IT SEVEN...

BILLY BUDD. Benjamin Britten's seventh opera in ten years, has had its curtain-rise at Covent Garden. The first performance was conducted by Britten himself, who, in slacks and windbreaker jacket, spent

a month of mornings and afternoons in the Covent Garden crush room and other places coaching 16 or so principal singers to the sour tinkle of rehearsal pianos.

It cannot be said that he and his librettists (E. M. Forster, the novelist, and Eric Crozier) have gone out of their way to make things easy for the box office.

There are no women in the cast. Therefore there are no love duets, hitherto the staple diet of operagoers.

The sixteen principals, like the entire chorus, are men and boys serving aboard the 74-gun indomitable, a warship of Nelson's day. Budd is a handsome, virtuous foretopman who, loved by all but the ship's sinister master at arms, is betrayed into an offence against the Mutiny Act and, after court martial, hanged from the yard-arm. Such is the theme which Forster and Crozier have taken from Herman Melville.

The possibility that an all-male cast might scare the conventionally minded away from Covent Garden occurred to Britten while the Budd score was still on the stocks.

"I can't help it if some people are scared," he said to me at the time. "Billy Budd is an opera that has to be written. I haven't felt as keenly about any work since Peter Grimes." And off he went for another two-hour trudge across the salt marshes near his Aldeburgh (Suffolk) home to work out in his head the music for the next dozen pages.

ARISE!

THIS linking of Budd with Grimes is logical. Both are individuals at loggerheads with their environment. The significant thing is that Britten has been at loggerheads himself. His phase of conflict came on the eve of the war, when he was 25.

For six years he had been a reasonably thriving freelance composer for films, theatres, festivals, Proms, and so on. But there was a persistent malaise. The prospect of war angered him. He felt very much at home in the Bloomsbury Leftists.

For mixed voices he wrote a fervent choral piece, *Advance*



MAN OF CONFLICT
Benjamin Britten

THE ANTI-WAR COMPOSER TAKES A NELSON WARSHIP—AND THROWS CONVENTION OVERBOARD—FOR HIS NEW OPERA—WITH-PROFIT BID

Democracy. In the spring of 1939, to words by Randall Swingler, which, after declaring that the "big bosses" were plotting our doom, called upon the people to rise against war.

Rise as a single being—On one resolve arrayed—Life shall be for the people That's for the people made.

Advance Democracy is now out of print. But the mood that dictated it has its importance in the Britten record.

On the crest of that mood he and the tenor Peter Pears, who has been his companion and musical partner ever since, sailed for America in the early summer of 1939. Britten talked of becoming an American subject and staying in the U.S.A. for good.

NO KHAKI

HE reckoned without home-sickness however. Wartime Britain exercised a queer pull over exiles of every stripe. By March, 1942, after much composing and joint concert giving, he and Pears were back in London. Britten was anxious to help the common cause, if he could, through music.

But no fighting, no khaki for him. He was firm about that. His first appearance before a C.O. tribunal did not prosper; but in August, 1942, an appeal board at Ebury House, Victoria, granted him unconditional exemption from armed service (a rare thing) because of the importance to the nation of his music-making.

Since 1942 Britten has renounced none of his pacifist principles. But nine years bring a difference of emphasis, especially if they are years of success. And Britten's success has, in its way, been unmatched.

Son of a Lowestoft dentist who left £2,000 and three other children, Ben decided at 19 (after Gresham's School and Royal College of Music) to earn his living with his pen. At first he plodded. Peter Grimes cost him a full year's work (the whole of 1943) and creative pangs unimaginable. The immediate financial return, including royalties on his first six performances

by CHARLES REID

at Sadler's Wells (where Pears created the name part) cannot have been more than £750. But Grimes brought fame, and fame is a better investment than rubles.

THE MIRACLE

AT once Britten and Pears were in universal demand as recitalists. Often they would give four recitals in one week. Every four recitals meant another hundred guineas in Britten's pocket. (Since then his fees have risen.)

To get about the country more readily he bought a 1929 Rolls-Royce for £700 later replacing it by a 1935 model. There were United States and Continental trips.

Peter Grimes was followed by four other stage works: *The Rape of Lucretia*, *Albert Herring*, a new setting of *The Beggar's Opera* and *The Little Sweep*. In five years his operas had 600 performances in nine languages in 15 countries.

At last the miracle had happened. Here was English opera—or, at any rate, serious opera—which was pleasing to the home market and fit for export.

Meanwhile Britten's social life was beginning to glitter. The man who in 1939 contributed anti-war music (including a satirical *Dance of Death*) to a Festival of Music for the People at the old Queen's Hall stood eleven years later as godparent with Queen Mary and Princess Elizabeth at the christening of the Earl and Countess of Harewood's baby.

At first his Suffolk retreat was a converted stump of windmill at Snape. Now he has a solid, bourgeois-looking house facing the sea at Aldeburgh. In the music room are enviable paintings: a Blake, a Cotman, a Bonington, a Turner, a Constable. "But," he explains, "it's Peter who's the expert on paintings. He can tell you much more about them than I."

HIT TUNES? NO

ALTHOUGH modest enough of manner, Britten has a clear idea of his merits. The morning after a first performance he has been known to screw up a newspaper containing a criticism not to his liking and pitch it disgustedly into a corner.

On the other hand he has, I think, too much good sense to credit the extremist clique who say in all seriousness that he is the most important thing that has hit music since Mozart. His output since 18 has been great; its quality uneven.

He could not for the life of him write a hit like *One Fine Day* or *Your Tiny Hand* which he ostentatiously does not. (He has a rather childlike contempt for Puccini.)

That he has a measure of genius is, however, undoubted. In some ways you have to go back to Henry Purcell (who died over 250 years ago) before you find a composer whose equal or whose like in home-grown music.

Larry Adler writes of Tokyo—



YOU may think the United Nations is operating in Paris, but I've got news for you. You'll find a very powerful branch at the American General Hospital in Tokyo.

Playing there was an experience I'll never forget.

I was the guest of the British Commonwealth Division. When I was ushered into the first ward by Miss Drew, a Red Cross worker, I said hello to the men, and asked them what they wanted to hear. They looked blankly at me.

"Mr. Adler," said Miss Drew, "these men don't understand English. They're mostly from Colombia."

"Oh," I replied. (I am noted for my repartee.) Dispensing with announcements, I played "Besame Mucho," "La Paloma," "La Cumparsita," which suited my audience fine.

"Que quieros ustedes ahora, amigos?" I inquired.

"Una rumba," replied one auditor, courteously pretending that my accent was comprehensible.

Flushed with linguistic success, I played the "Peanut Vendor." Next ward.

"WELL, fellows, what would you like to hear?" I asked.

"Mr. Adler," said Miss Drew, "these men are French." "Ahors, mes amis," I said, dismissing the temptation to discuss the plume of my tunic, "qu'est-ce que vous voudriez maintenant? Le jazz hot, ou, peut-être, une chose classique?"

"La Vie en Rose," replied one patient. I played that, also "Pigalle," "Feuilles Mortes," and "Aupres de ma Blonde." Next ward.

"These patients," said Miss Drew with something like an air of triumph, "are Greek and Turkish."

"Yassou," I said, which began and ended my Greek—I know even less Turkish—and went into "Misirlou" and some Greek folk songs I learned in Athens this past summer. I just made up Turkish music as I went along. Next ward.

NOTING a number of Negroes, I sighed with relief and launched into "St. Louis Blues," ordinarily a solid winner. The Negroes stared at me coldly, if not disapprovingly.

"You mustn't expect too much of a reaction to your jazz music," said Miss Drew, a shade gleefully. "These men are Ethiopians."

I clapped a hand to my head and, moaning softly, permitted Miss Drew to lead me away.

In the last ward of the American General Hospital I actually found some Americans. Accompanied on the guitar by Frank Allison, who has been lent to me by the Canadian Signal Corps, I put on an all-request show, ranging from "Roll-Mop," which I didn't know, to "China Nights," which I haven't learned yet.

AT noon-next day, I left for A Kure, Japan. Three days there—and then Korea. Every-one delightedly tells me how cold it will be there.

"You know," said one such morale-buster, "I wouldn't be surprised if the harmonica froze right to your face."

Isn't that nice? Oh well, a musician and his instrument are supposed to be inseparable.

Maugham On The Truth About One's Face

By LEONARD MOSLEY

SOMERSET MAUGHAM (who once described cocktail parties as "gatherings where free drinks are forced upon people who don't want to buy by individuals who have doubts about what they are trying to sell") gave a party of his own in London the other day.

It turned out to be the best liquid selling-job of the year for a film named *ENCORE*, made from a further selection of Maugham's short stories. The well-distilled personality of the shrewd old party himself came out pretty well, too.

Seventy-eight-year-old Mr. Maugham talked about every-

nose. He says, on his possibilities as a film star:

"I don't think I performed as well in *Encore* as in the two earlier ones. My timing wasn't so good. I slurred some of my words."

"I am supposed to be a cynical old man, but there were moments when I looked so kindly that there is a danger people will begin thinking of me as a poppet."

With a second dry martini on its way down as fuel to keep his wit sparking, he added some aside remarks on a modern painter, the influence of easy money on genius—and the stimulus of life in London.

Picture him among a small group of critics. His own home-cured face bends forward wildly as if he is trying to look himself into the conversation by the side of his thin, magnificent

nose. He says, on his possibilities as a film star:

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saw it I was shocked. I was stunned. Could this face really be mine? And then I began to realise that there was far more of me than I ever saw myself."

Maugham thinks Sutherland is one of the world's great painters. "But now he has done me and Lord Beaverbrook, I wish he would give up portraits."

A fire flickered for a moment in the old eye; as someone mentioned his home at Cap Ferrat, on the Riviera.

"It's such a sunny, pleasant place. I like the sun. But there are moments when a man must choose between sun and good conversation."

He made it clear that, at his age, it was quite a choice.

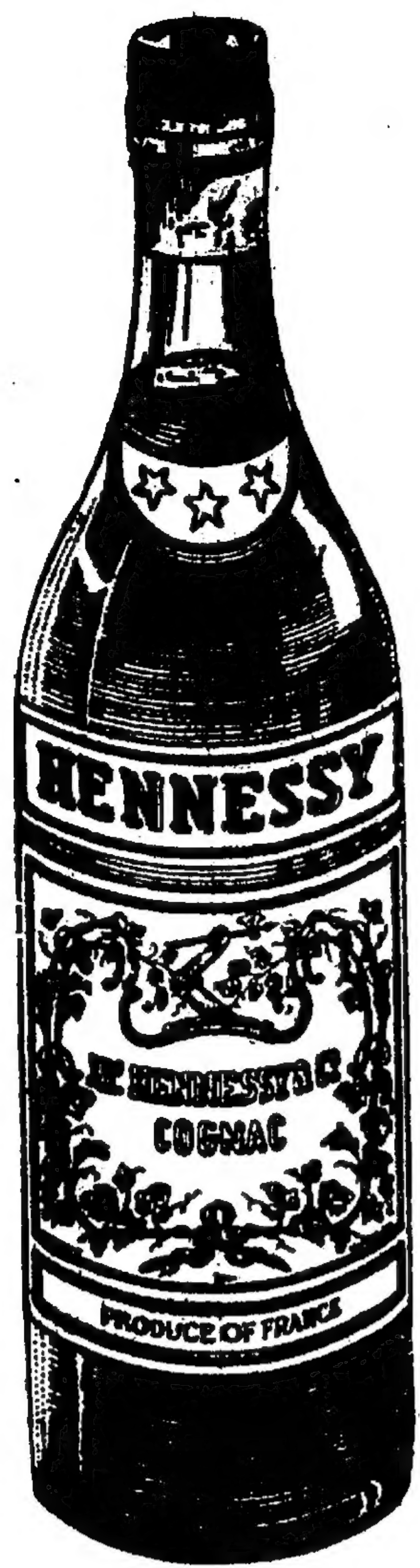
"London may be cold and damp, but it is such a stimulating place. Things happen here. Theatres, films, dinner parties. People. People with things to say that I want to hear. So I shall stay here through the winter."

He rubbed his hands together while someone else talked, as if warming himself on "these Londoners." He leaned over to thank someone for "lending me that book. I read it with great interest."

(It was Gaylord Hauser's "Look Younger, Live Longer.")

Then he turned back and resumed the job of selling his new film.

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Saturday's Rugger

RAF SHOWED UP RATHER WELL AGAINST CLUB

Says "HANLINCODE"

The fifth rounds of the Pentangular Rugby Tournament, played off at the Police Ground, Boundary Street, on Saturday afternoon, failed to excite in any way the fans who attended.

A goodly crowd saw the Club beat the RAF by 18 points to 3, and the Police, who entertained the Navy, were beaten by 28 points to nil.

In neither of the two games did the winning teams show up to their best advantage. This, of course, was due mainly to the weak opposition against them. No team gives of its best when it is not going to win.

The RAF showed up rather well against the mighty Club. Knowing that they would have to give everything they had got to make a game of it, the plucky Flyers really got into the game. The forwards, lighter than their opponents, shone in the loose rushes and showed once more a little improvement on previous matches. This improvement is only slight but the point is that it is definitely there.

The forwards are to be congratulated and it speaks much for the enthusiasm of the players and those responsible for training them that this improvement is taking place. Long may it continue.

It is regrettable that in the back division the improvement is not so noticeable. Of all the players in the RAF team, mention must be made of Harris and his co-partner Bailey.

These two halves certainly played hard and bore the brunt of the Club attack time and time again. Harris cleared quite nicely on many occasions and his kicks were extremely well judged and placed and on all occasions he showed a fine football sense and a sound knowledge of the game.

INTER-VARSITY RUGGER

Two Slips By Wells Let Oxford In

By PAT MARSHALL

Oxford U. 13pts. Cambridge U.O.

Poor Tom Wells. Rarely can one man have lost a Varsity Rugby match off his own bat as did cricket blue Wells.

Rarely can one man have looked so desolate and alone in the midst of a 45,000 crowd as did Cambridge's New Zealand full-back at "No side."

Wells, the only one of the 30 Varsity men to be chosen for the final English trial, made two mistakes. They cost Cambridge the match and cost him an international cap.

His first came when Cambridge fly-half Ricky Bartlett, under pressure near the line, passed back.

Wells slipped on the frosty turf, failed to hold his pass, and Oxford's hooker Nick Croese was on him. Wells partially recovered, slipped again, and the Oxford skipper Giles Bullard (No. 13) was there to touch down in the 13th minute.

FOOZLED IT

Cambridge battled on three points down until the 20th minute of the second half. They were getting more of the ball from the scrum, while Oxford were ralling the line-out and the loose.

Then Wells came up into his three-quarter line for an all-out attack. He tried a short kick ahead—and fozzled it. The ball went straight to Oxford's international wing, Trevor Brewer, who raced over under the posts for Bullard to convert.

That was the end of Cambridge. Oxford scored again. Harry Wyckel finished off a glorious run by fly-half Doug Baker, and Bullard converted. Mind you, Oxford were full value for their win. Their lighter pack, well led by Bullard, always had the measure of bigger opponents in the loose. Their halves, Ken Spence and Baker, were vastly superior to their counterparts, and the Oxford three-quarters were more adept skaters on the ice-riek surface.

Oxford University—C. Saunders, T. Brewer, B. Boothby, I. Courts, A. Cooper, T. Baker, J. Spence, E. Thompson, N. Croese, C. Gerth, E. Wimperley, M. Walker, G. Bullard, D. Davies, H. Bartlett, F. Wells, G. Bevan, K. Dalgleish, P. Reeve, D. Jones, H. Bartlett, H. Harrison, H. Miller, P. Benger, M. Massey, J. Jenkins, V. Leadbetter, B. Woodall, F. Wheeler, G. Archer.

Ankara Beats

Bernard Pugh

Nottingham, Dec. 17. Roy Ankara, of West Africa, the coloured holder of the British Empire Featherweight boxing title, gained another historic victory here tonight when he beat Bernard Pugh, of Liverpool, who retired at the end of the fifth round of the scheduled 10-round non-title match.

Pugh never had a chance. He battled gamely but was battered relentlessly by the Empire Champion.

Pugh was down for a count of two in the second round, again for five in the fifth round and for another count of nine in the sixth.

By winning an eighth round by the end of the sixth round, the referee stopped the fight.

The referee, Mr. J. J. Jones, said that Pugh was "too tired to continue."

The fight was held at the Nottingham Sports Ground, Nottingham.

ON THE RECORD Chance For The Schoolboys

This column owes an apology to the Hongkong Track and Field Association for leaving the impression in a recent round-up on the Olympic effort locally that the Association was not doing as much as it could.

We have had a letter from Mr. F. J. Tingay, Joint Hon. Secretary with Mr. Kwok Ling-kwong, outlining a long and ambitious programme and explaining that suggestions are very welcome. However, Mr. Tingay adds, arranging an athletic meet is no easy job and this fact alone could limit planning.

That is only too true. It takes officials innumerable to make even one afternoon meet a success and it must be said for the HKATFA that their meet last season ran without a hitch. The officials innumerable, however, may not be willing to turn out once a fortnight for a whole season.

One answer to that would be a longer roster of available officials who know their job and a call could be made for volunteers, though, of course, there is no guarantee of any really encouraging response.

The programme as set out is already more ambitious than anything attempted in Hongkong in the last two decades and a particularly interesting item is the quadrangular meet between South China Athletic Association, the Services, Milcoarians and Hongkong School Sports Association at Caroline Hill on January 20 in aid of the Olympic Fund.

It is interesting to note that the Association does not consider schoolboys too immature to be pitted against the best talent available.

That has always been a controversial subject, but the general outlook on the subject in athletic circles throughout the world today is that schoolboys should compete with the best, but not too often.

It does no harm to any schoolboy to run or jump. It is up to the schoolboys' coaches, however, to instil in them the fact that in a race where they feel they are beaten they should ease up and not strain themselves.

In fact, the same advice is generally given to most mature athletes by the best coaches and it is a fallacy in athletics to talk about anyone's "pluck," as this cannot possibly be more important than gradual development within the limits of the physical strain an athlete can take.

It is only through steady training that men can run faster

and jump longer and no amount of inspiration will make a champion overnight or even over one season.

Several of our Champions today are schoolboys and schoolgirls, but should someone much better than they are at present emerge in the new season, they would be ill-advised to try to hang on to their laurels beyond the limits of the speed or stamina they are at present capable of showing.

A not very encouraging feature of the programme drawn up is that the University, apparently, have not yet taken sufficient interest in the coming into being of the Association to wish to come into an inter-team meet themselves.

One University athlete competed last year in the Colony Championships and one other made two appearances in invitational open meets. There is an annual University Sports meet. That is hardly enough to put University athletics properly on the local map.

University's participation in open athletics has always in the past been limited for the fact that these meets have, more often than not, coincided with weeks immediately preceding examinations. In the programmes arranged, due regard should be given this.

NO MORE PROVERBS

The long list of famous cricket scorers in the Colony is one short with the departure of Margarita Divelva for Australia by the Changsha on Saturday.

Margarita was, of course, only Craigengower's deputy scorer to Mrs Irene Souza, but she took the job very seriously when she had it and her heart bled at one "duck" and rejoiced at two.

Margarita always felt sorry that anyone should come out with a "bloob." She would wait anxiously for another and then



Margarita

rest happy when there would come another "quack" and the knowledge that now no one was alone in his misery. She was very fond of proverbs and her favourite one was that "It takes more than one duck to make a feast."

One of last season's "unforgotten" moments was the strained look on her face when the last Army batsman went in. She was afraid that he would be the only one not to hit a four. When he did, she breathed a long sigh of relief.

Her pater, M. J. Divelva of Interport fame, sees no future for women's cricket in Hongkong beyond the scorebooks and has sent her "Down Under."

"RECORDER"

NOTICE

THE HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB

Draft Programmes and Entry Forms for the 18th Race Meeting 1951 and the 1st Race Meeting 1952 to be held on Saturday 28th December, 1951, and Tuesday 1st January, 1952, (weather permitting) may be obtained at the Secretary's Office, Telephone House, the Club House, Happy Valley, and the Stables, Shek Kwong Road.

Entries close at 12 o'clock NOON on Thursday, 20th December, 1951.

By Order

M. M. M.

Secretary

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"Alf" Gover

I remember my first coach in Surrey, "Razor" Smith, once saying, in answer to a question about how to play spin bowling: "When in doubt, Alfred, play forward". I sometimes say that I've been playing forward ever since.

The government charged the three men tried to bribe kennel guard to feed meat balls loaded with dope to certain dogs.—Associated Press.

Badminton
Junior Mixed Doubles--Hecreo
"W" v University, Crisgenpower v
Hecreo "B", YMCA v St. Teresa.
Football
H.E. Corps Troops v H.K. Signal
Meet at Boundary Street, 4 p.m.
S.S.C.A. Council meeting, Prince's
Building, 8.30 p.m.

Barl Charity where the American was forced to retire with a cut over his left eye.

The bout was scheduled for eight rounds.

so much to the individuals. But that doesn't attract either new talent or new customers.

Without both, and they can only come as a result of a

Austria as well to take on a waltzing Viennese.

In addition, there's a tip-Colombian tour awaiting English club side who would

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to Padilla's 131½, was floor
in the fourth round by a rig
to the jaw. The Frenchm
came on strong, however, a
went out with a powerful att

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